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repeated search during the rest of the season failed to unearth even a single plant.

It is my good fortune, however, to find this summer on almost the identical spot a loose mat possibly a foot square. The weather so far this year has been cold and rainy and the plants examined under the microscope July 23rd show abundant gemmæ. See illustrations, etc., in *BRYOLOGIST* for October, 1901; also January, 1901, p. 12, and July, 1901, p. 50. There is evidence of a number of fertile plants in the mat, and it is hoped these will prove to be on the *Bryum* in which case a limited amount of material will be available for distribution.

A. M. S.

A NOTE

BY ANNIE MORRILL SMITH.

In company with other journals *THE BRYOLOGIST* comes in for its share of criticism without which it would be impossible to keep fully in touch with its subscribers and thereby modify and adjust its policy from time to time. The idea in starting this journal was to help a body of would-be students of the mosses; their number was unknown but it was felt to be sufficient to justify a beginning, so in January, 1898, a modest start was made with four pages. Before the year was out its place was assured and its growth and progress since then a matter of history.

The Editors have from the first enjoyed the cooperation of the advanced workers, as our pages testify, and when these friends counsel the printing of more technical articles it is hard not to fill our limited space with matter beyond the range of the beginner. This problem is very clearly set forth by Charles E. Bessey in a recent number of *Science* (July 25, 1902, No. 395, p. 157) and we are glad to record his endorsement of our policy. It is just because we have never been able to forget the ladder by whose help we mounted the first hard rounds that we have kept to the original idea of helping the beginner. We feel sure that the issues of the first four years of *THE BRYOLOGIST* constitute a very helpful handbook for those taking up the study of the mosses, hepatics and lichens, and that this ground need not be covered again by us. There still remains, however, a large gap between this elementary work which we have done and the *Manual of Lesquereux* and *James*. This was brought home very forcibly to me the past two weeks. During the exigencies of travel I was separated from my own copy of the *Manual* and obliged to use the spotless one of a friend and I realized then for the first time what a wealth of material exists only in such annotated copies as a few own who have had exceptional opportunities to correct, make additions, cross references and notes to the extent often of pages interleaved. Many of these notes and additions have been given from time to time in our pages by the various authors, but we do need one or more books leading one up to the place where intelligent use of the larger works of reference is possible. In the meantime *THE BRYOLOGIST* will continue a certain amount of elementary work, at the same time giving generous space to those further advanced.